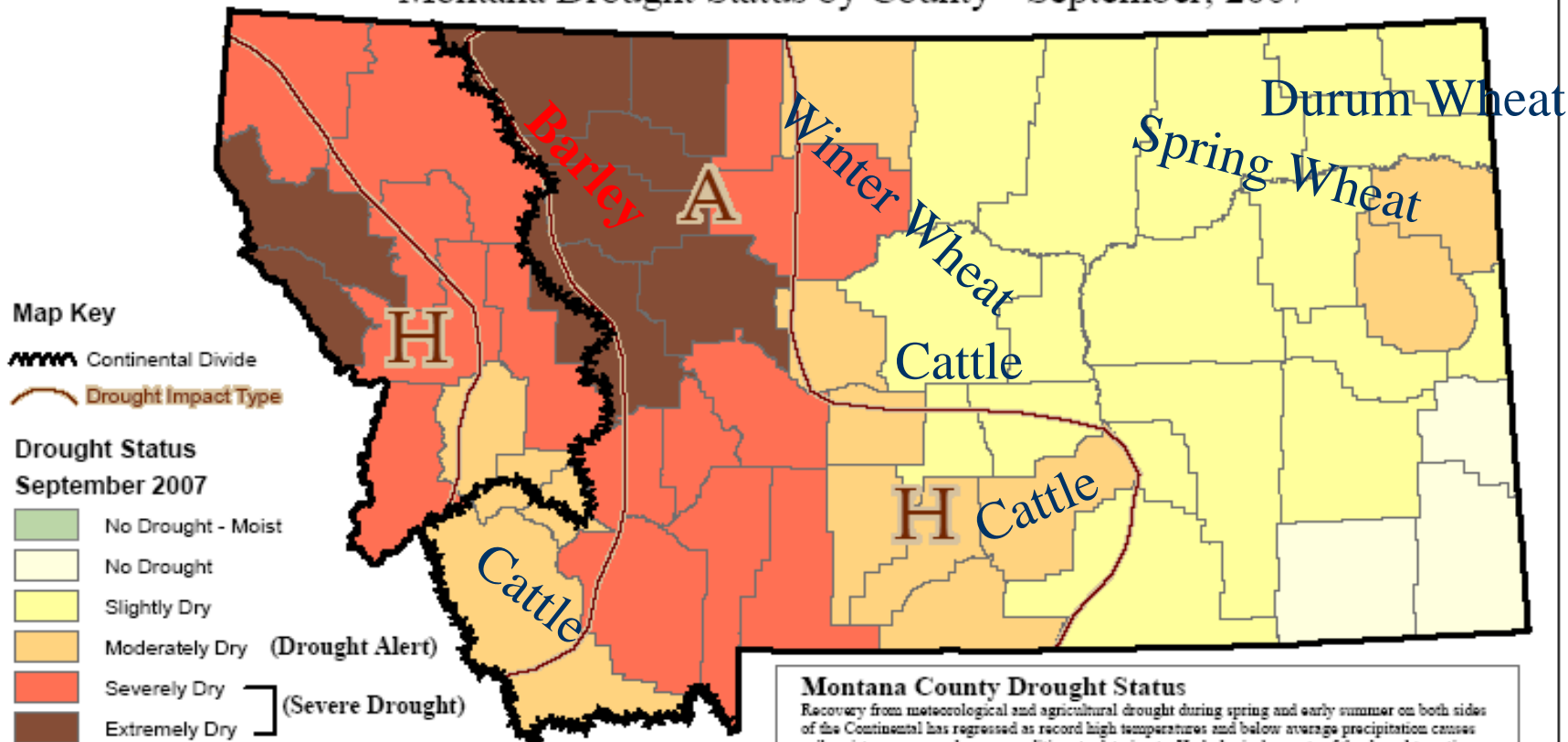




Montana Drought Advisory Committee

USDA, NASS, MT Field Office
Peggy Stringer
Director
September 17, 2008

Montana Drought Status by County - September, 2007



Drought Impact Types - **A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions
H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://dnr.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

Recovery from meteorological and agricultural drought during spring and early summer on both sides of the Continental Divide has regressed as record high temperatures and below average precipitation causes soil moisture, crop, and range conditions to deteriorate. Hydrological aspects of the drought continue to worsen as reservoirs are drafted heavily and streamflow approaches very low levels for a number of rivers across the state due to late formation and early melt of the mountain snowpack.

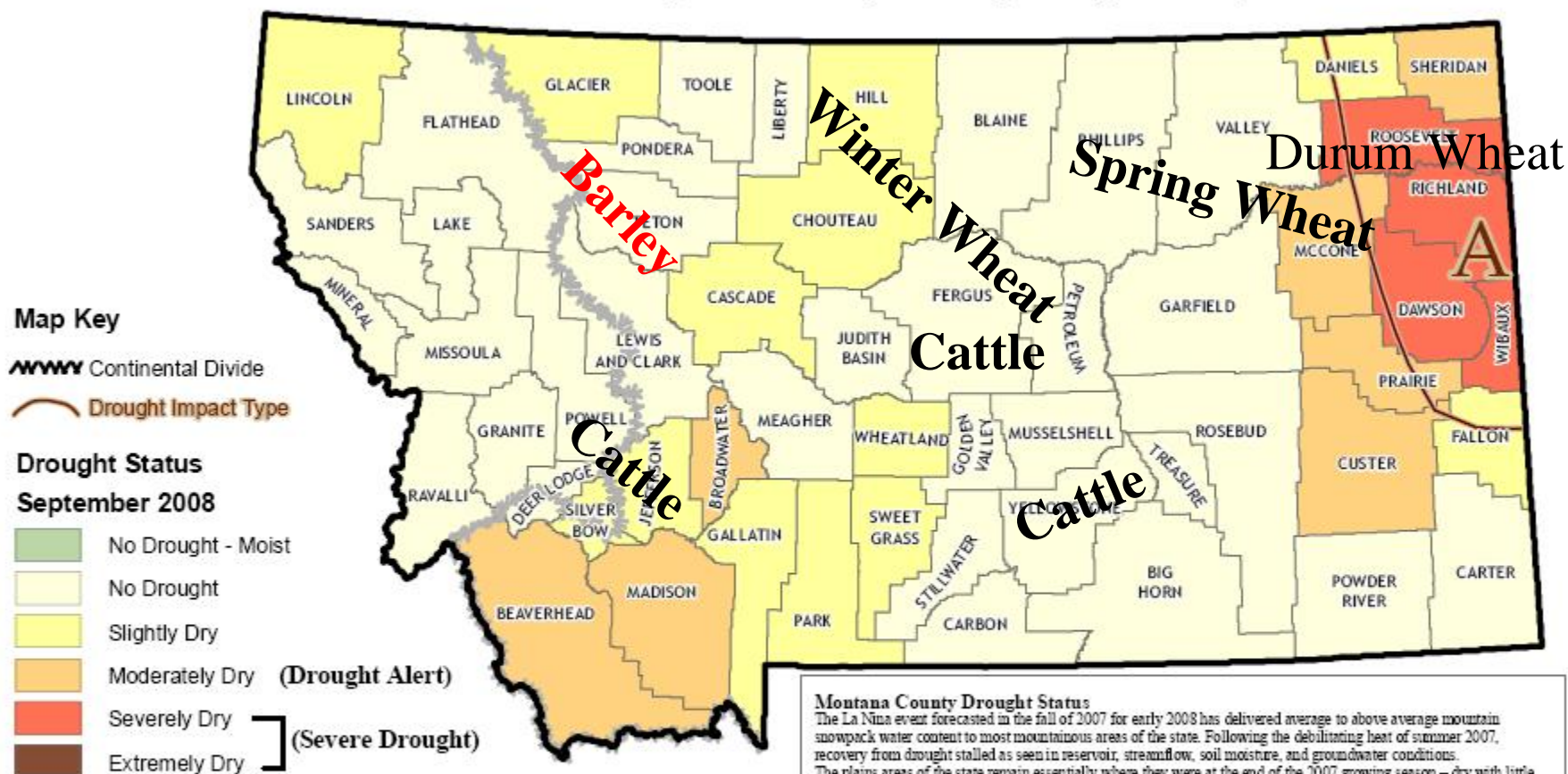
The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee assesses water supply and moisture conditions on a monthly basis to determine drought status for each county of the state. The drought status map is used primarily to promote awareness of drought and to alert Montanans to impending drought conditions so they may respond appropriately.

Drought Alert: Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages watershed groups and county drought committees to convene and undertake planning for drought.

Severe Drought: Local officials should have local drought planning underway or should convene local drought planning at the earliest opportunity.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan.
<http://dnr.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf>

Montana Drought Status by County - September, 2008



Final Small Grains Summary

Sept. 30, 2008





Crop Weather Report Week Ending September 14, 2008

- ◆ Small grains harvest not complete, due to continued rainfall the past two weeks
- ◆ Winter wheat crop 97% harvested

Spring Planted Crops

Harvest of all small grains behind last year.

Harvest of most oilseeds behind last year.

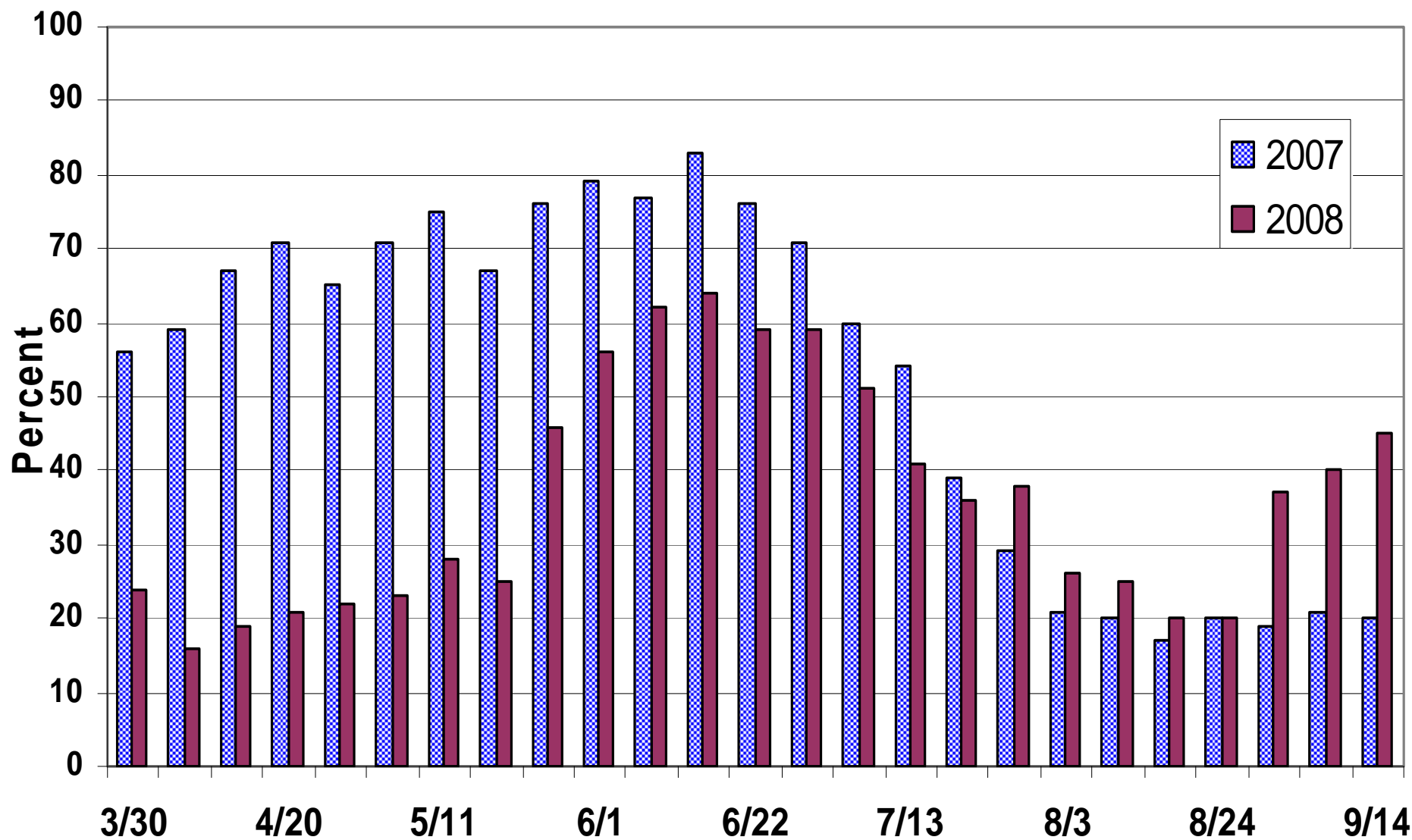




Topsoil Moisture Better than Last Month, Last Year, & 5-Year Avg.

September 14, 2008	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Very Short/Short	37%	77%	81%	76%
Adequate	57%	23%	17%	22%
Surplus	6%	0%	2%	2%

Subsoil Moisture, Adequate & Surplus, Montana- 2007 & 2008





Subsoil Moisture Better than Last Month, Last Year, & 5-Yr Average

September 14, 2008	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Very Short/Short	55%	75%	79%	82%
Adequate	43%	25%	20%	17%
Surplus	2%	0%	1%	1%

Winter Wheat Seedings



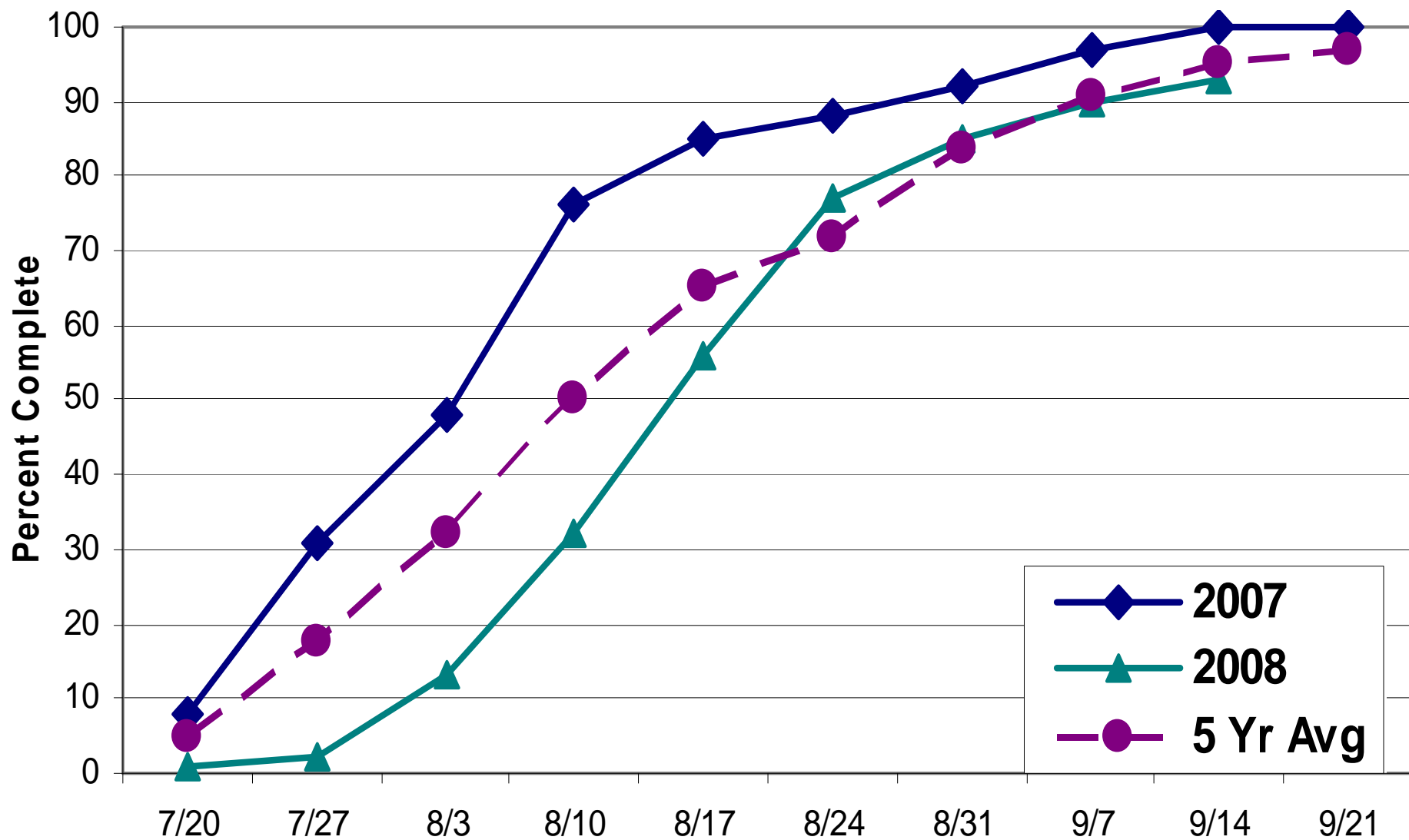
- ◆ Planting behind last year and 5-year average
- ◆ 4.4 days suitable for field work last week; rain has slowed things down
- ◆ Planting about 7% complete



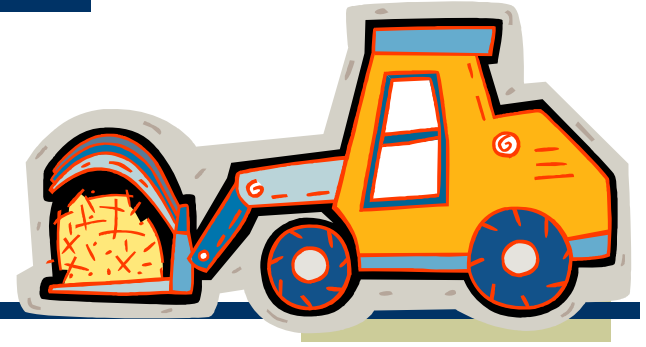
Winter Wheat Seeding Behind Last Year & 5-Year Average

September 14, 2008	This Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Winter Wheat Seeded	7%	23%	21%

Alfalfa Hay Second Cutting, Montana - July - September

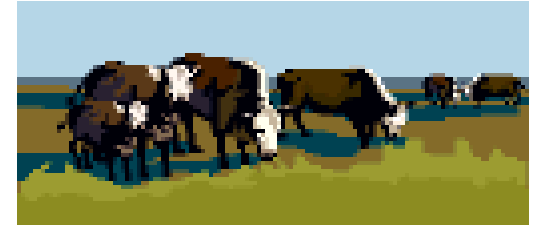


Hay Harvest Behind Last Year & 5-Year Average



September 14, 2008	This Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Alfalfa Hay Second Cutting	93%	99%	95%
Other Hay Second Cutting	79%	91%	90%

Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture feed conditions better than last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Ranchers moving cattle and sheep from summer ranges



Range & Pasture Conditions Better than Last Year and 5-Year Average

September 14, 2008	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Very Poor/Poor	27%	27%	36%	47%
Fair	38%	34%	38%	34%
Good	29%	25%	22%	16%
Excellent	6%	14%	4%	3%



Movement from Summer Ranges

September 14, 2008	This Week	Last Month	Last Year	5-yr Avg
Cattle & Calves	22%	2%	23%	23%
Sheep & Lambs	26%	2%	20%	22%



To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter wheat seeding well behind last year
- ◆ Small grain harvest behind last year, due to delayed growing season and recent rainfall
- ◆ Range & pasture feed conditions better than last year
- ◆ Moving livestock to winter pastures & ranges well underway



Small Grains Summary

- ◆ Due out September 30
- ◆ Final acreage and production estimates